

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An immunogenic or vaccine composition consisting essentially of a mixture of sporulated oocysts isolated from precocious strains of *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima*, *E. mitis* and *E. tenella*.
- 5 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the mixture is about 500 oocysts of *E. acervulina*, about 50 to about 100 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 500 oocysts of *E. mitis* and about 100 to about 250 oocysts of *E. tenella* are combined.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the mixture is about 500 oocysts of *E. acervulina*, about 100 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 500 oocysts of *E. mitis* and about 100
10 oocysts of *E. tenella* are combined.
4. An immunogenic or vaccine composition comprising a mixture of sporulated oocysts isolated from precocious strains of *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima*, *E. mitis* and *E. tenella*, wherein the ratio of *E. acervulina*:*E. maxima*:*E. mitis*:*E. tenella* is about 10:1 to 2:10:2 to 5.
5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the ratio of *E. acervulina*:*E. maxima*:*E. mitis*:*E. tenella* is about 5:1:5:1.
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6. A method of eliciting an immune response comprising administering an effective amount of the immunogenic or vaccine composition of claim 1 to induce the response in a chicken.
7. A method for inducing an immunological or protective response comprising
20 administering an effective amount of the immunogenic or vaccine composition of claim 1 to induce the response in a chicken.
8. A method of eliciting an immune response comprising administering an effective amount of the immunogenic or vaccine composition of claim 4 to induce the response in a chicken.
9. A method for inducing an immunological or protective response comprising
25 administering an effective amount of the immunogenic or vaccine composition of claim 4 to induce the response in a chicken.
10. The method of claims 6 or 7 wherein the effective amount is about 500 oocysts of *E. acervulina*, about 50 to about 100 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 500 oocysts of *E. mitis* and
30 about 100 to about 250 oocysts of *E. tenella*.

11. The method of claims 6 or 7 wherein the effective amount is about 500 oocysts of *E. acervulina*, about 100 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 500 oocysts of *E. mitis* and about 100 oocysts of *E. tenella*.

12. The method of claims 8 or 9 wherein the effective amount is the ratio of *E. acervulina*:*E. maxima*:*E. mitis*:*E. tenella* of about 5:1:5:1.

13. The method of any one of claims 6-9 wherein the effective amount is sufficient to resist a challenge dose of about 100,000 to about 500,000 oocysts of *E. acervulina* and about 10,000 to about 100,000 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 100,000 to about 500,000 oocysts of *E. mitis*, or about 10,000 to about 100,000 oocysts of *E. tenella* to the animal.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the challenge dose is about 200,000 oocysts of *E. acervulina* and about 20,000 to about 50,000 oocysts of *E. maxima*, about 200,000 oocysts of *E. mitis*, or about 20,000 to about 50,000 oocysts of *E. tenella*.